

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 202623
ORIGIN AF-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 202623

FOLLOWING REPEAT TRIPOLI 1112 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO
ALGIERS CAIRO LAGOS NDJAMENA PARIS RABAT TUNIS AUG 24.
QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1112

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, LY, CD, NI
SUBJ: LIBYA-CHAD MEDIATION EFFORTS

1. ACCORDING TO NIGERIAN CHARGE WHO JUST RETURNED FROM CON-
SULTATION IN LAGOS, THE NIGHERIAN-NIGER MEDIATION EFFORTS
WILL CONTINUE EVEN THOUGH NON-APPEARANCE OF LIBYA AT
INITIAL MEETING WAS DISCOURAGING. CHARGE EXPLAINED THAT
MEDIATION EFFORTS ARE TWOFOLD: FIRST, THE ATTEMPT TO
MEDIATE BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS IN TRIPOLI AND NDJAMENA AND
SECONDLY, AN ATTEMPT TO RECONCILE THE NDJAMENA GOVERNMENT
WITH THE REBEL GROUPS. THE CHARGE CLAIMS THAT CHAD
INTRANSIGENCE IS A MAJOR FACTOR IN SLOW PROGRESS AND CITED
THE NDJAMENA GOVERNMENT'S HARASSMENT OF LIBYAN DIPLOMATS
IN THE CAPITAL. HIS GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, WAS COUNSELLING
PRESIDENT MALLOUM TO ADOPT MORE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE
PARTICULARLY SINCE LIBYANS IN A POSITION TO BRING
GREATER PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THE LARGE NUMBER OF
CHAD CITIZENS HERE.

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PAGE 02 STATE 202623

2. THE PROBLEM OF RECONCILING THE REBELS WITH THE
CHAD GOVERNMENT IS ALSO MOVING SLOWLY BECAUSE OF
THE DIFFICULTIES IN MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH THE
THREE FACTIONS. THE HUSSEIN HABRE GROUP APPARENTLY
IS SUBJECT TO SUDANESE INFLUENCE AND HAS NOT RESPONDED
TO THE EFFORTS OF THE MEDIATION GROUP. AT THE SAME

TIME SADIQ REMAINS IN ALGERIA ESSENTIALLY OUT OF
CONTACT. MOST IMPORTANTLY THE GOUKNOUNI GROUP HAS
THUS FAR SHOWN LITTLE INTEREST IN RECONCILIATION
EFFORTS. NEVERTHELESS, WHILE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT
IS FAR FROM OPTIMISTIC, IT FEELS IT MUST CARRY
FORWARD THE OAU MANDATE TO SEEK TO MOVE THE PARTIES
TO A SOLUTION OF POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS AFRICAN PROBLEM.
CARLE UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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